Sl. No.	State	Total inhabited villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified as on 29.2.2000	
21.	Sikkim	447	405	Balance 42 villages non-feasible for electrification
22.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	
23.	Tripura	855	810	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112803	89038	
25.	West Bengal	373910	29563	
	TOTAL (States)	586165	505311	Balance villages are declared non-feasible for electrification
	TOTAL (UTs)	1093	1090	Balance villages declared non-feasible for electrification
	TOTAL (All India)	587258	506401	-do-

Production of Hydro-Electric Power

3475. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made to tap all available hydro electric power in the country;

(b) if so, the targets for production of hydro-electric power from new sources in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been a deliberate effort to give less emphasis to hydro-electric power in the last five years;

(d) the reasons for this neglect; and

(e) the steps proposed to give adequate emphasis to production of hydro-electric power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The share of hydro power has been continuously declining during the last three decades. As against an ideal hydel-thermal mix of 40:60, the hydro share has gone down from 44% in 1970s to 25% in 1999. The main reasons for the slow development of hydro power include (i) shortage of funds and longer gestation period; (ii) rehabilitation and resettlement problems; (iii) dearth of good contractors; (iv) inter-state aspects; (v) environment and forests clearance; (vi) law and order problems; (vii) land

acquisition problem; and (viii) geological surprises.

With a view to develop the untapped hydro-electric potential in the country, Government announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 which addresses to the various issues that have led to decline of the share of hydro power and remedial measures required to accelerate it. The Policy seeks to encourage greater participation by private enterpreneurs and to create the financial administrative and legal environment to encourage massive investments. Steps are also being taken to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydro-electric sites with a view to create a shelf of projects which could be taken up for execution. In order to encourage greater private investment, tariff for hydel projects has been rationalised, procedures for transfer of techno-economic clearance have been simplified, a mechanism to cover geological risks has been evolved and State Governments have been made responsible for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement.

A massive thrust is proposed to be given for hydro development by starting work on preparing Detailed Project Reports in respect of hydro projects involving capacity of about 30000 MW in the next 5 years. The hydro capacity addition targets for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have been fixed as 1297 MW and 4955.2 MW respectively.

Metering of Power Connection

3476. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to extend metering of power connections all over the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to encourage all State electricity boards to complete extension of meters by the year 2003;

(c) whether adequate finances will be given to State Governments to complete this tasks;

(d) whether any finances have been made available to Andhra Pradesh Government to complete the metering within the entire State; and

(e) if so, the funds released for this purpose in 1999-2000?